

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 05778 170931Z

12

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 170850Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4963

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ATHENS 5778

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, GR, CY, TR

SUBJECT: CYPRUS CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS

1. DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF CALLED AT 0930
AUGUST 17 TO INFORM ME THAT FIGHTING HAS AGAIN BROKEN
OUT IN THREE PLACES IN CYPRUS. HE ASKED THAT I INFORM
YOU OF THE FIGHTING AND INDICATED I SHOULD CONVEY THE
FEELING OF EXTREME DISAPPOINTMENT GOG FEELS.

2. AVEROFF ASSERTED THAT THERE IS NOW HEAVY FIGHTING
AT RACE COURSE IN NICOSIA. HE INDICATED TURKS USING
ROCKETS AND MORTARS IN A COORDINATED ATTACK. GREEK
FORCES NOT YET SURE OF ATTACK'S OBJECTIVE. HE
ALSO REPORTS FIGHTING IN SOUTHWEST CYPRUS, NEAR
LIMNITIS, AS WELL AS IN ATHIANOU, EAST OF NICOSIA.
HE TERMED THIS ATTACK SEVERE, BUT NOT AS SERIOUS AS
THAT OCCURRING IN NICOSIA.

3. AVEROFF SAID GREEK REACTION TO THIS RENEWED FIGHTING
IS NOT EMOTIONAL. GREEKS MUST RETAIN MINIMUM OF SELF-
RESPECT AND DIGNITY. ON A PERSONAL BASIS HE EXPRESSED
HIS "ASTONISHMENT" AT CONTENT OF AMERICAN POSITION SET
FORTH IN AUGUST 17 MESSAGE (STATE 179778) TO PRIME
MINISTER. HE FELT IT TOOK FAR TOO LONG FOR USG TO REACH
THE POSITION INDICATED IN THE LETTER, THAT THE POLICY

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WAS TOO LATE, AND, IN ANY EVENT, THAT THE ASSURANCES

GIVEN ARE NOT NOW BEING RESPECTED.

4. ON SEPARATE SUBJECTS AVEROFF TOLD ME GREEK MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO WAS NOT A FORM OF BLACKMAIL. ALTHOUGH HE CLAIMED THAT DECISION "SADDENED HIM PERSONALLY," HE STRESSED THAT DECISION WOULD STICK. HE ALSO CONFIRMED TO ME THAT GOG HAS SIGNED PACT WITH FRENCH FOR DELIVERY OF 50 MIRAGES. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION, HE DECLINED TO SAY WHETHER DELIVERY TIME ACCELERATED. HE INDICATED THERE WOULD BE FUTURE ARMS PURCHASES FROM FRENCH.

5. I HAVE OFFERED, AND HE HAS AGREED, TO MEET AUGUST 18 TO DISCUSS GENERAL SITUATION.
TASCA

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